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Montana
occupational
injuries &
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1994

Research & Analysis Bureau
Montana Department of Labor & Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624
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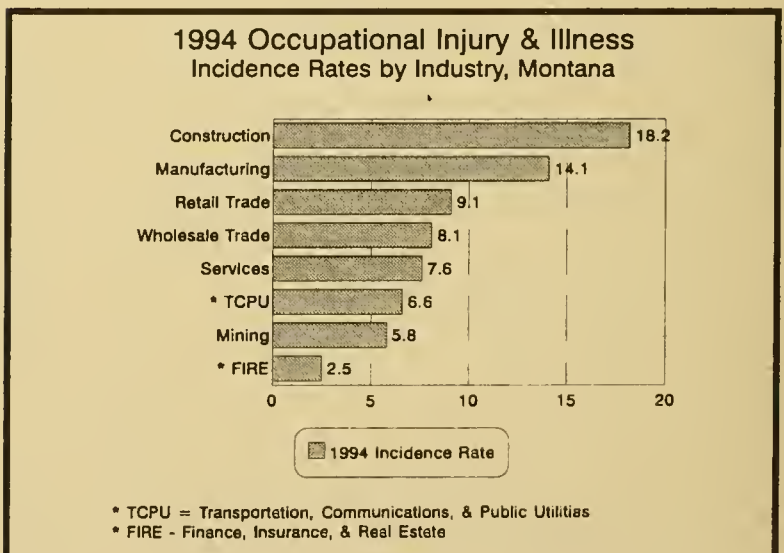
Occupational Injuries & Illnesses

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry collects data for occupational injuries and illnesses as required by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Estimates in this publication represent the injury and illness rates experienced by Montana employers in private sector establishments.

Employers are surveyed the year following the reference year. Statistical estimates and incidence rates for occupational injuries and illnesses presented here originated from 4,667 individual Montana business establishments who reported their injury and illness experience for 1994.

Incidence Rates of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

- During 1994, an estimated 18,900 occupational injuries and illnesses occurred in Montana, a 5.6 percent increase from the 1993 estimate of 17,900 cases.



Incidence rates represent the number of injuries per 100 full-time workers calculated as (N/EH) X 200,000 where N = number of injuries, EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year, and 200,000 is the base number of hours for 100 equivalent full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

- The private sector's 1994 incidence rate for illnesses and injuries at 9.0 per hundred full-time workers decreased from 9.2 in 1993.

- The number of injuries and illnesses in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate decreased in 1994 to 2.5 cases per 100 full-time workers. The 1993 rate was 2.9 cases. It was the safest industry by a considerable margin.

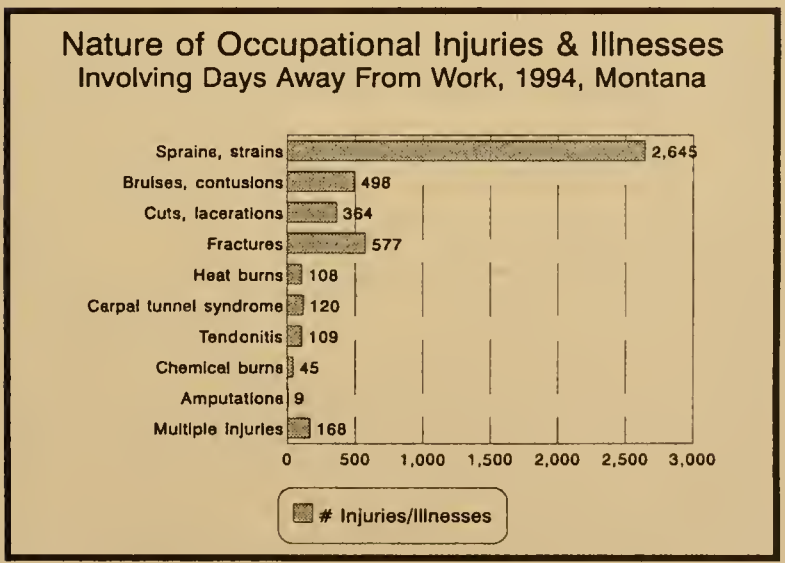
- Construction and Manufacturing had the highest incidence rates in 1994.

- Occupational illness cases totalled 800 in 1994, the same as the 1993 total. Establishments which reported disorders associated with repeated trauma had the highest incidence rate for illnesses, at 5.7 per 100 workers.

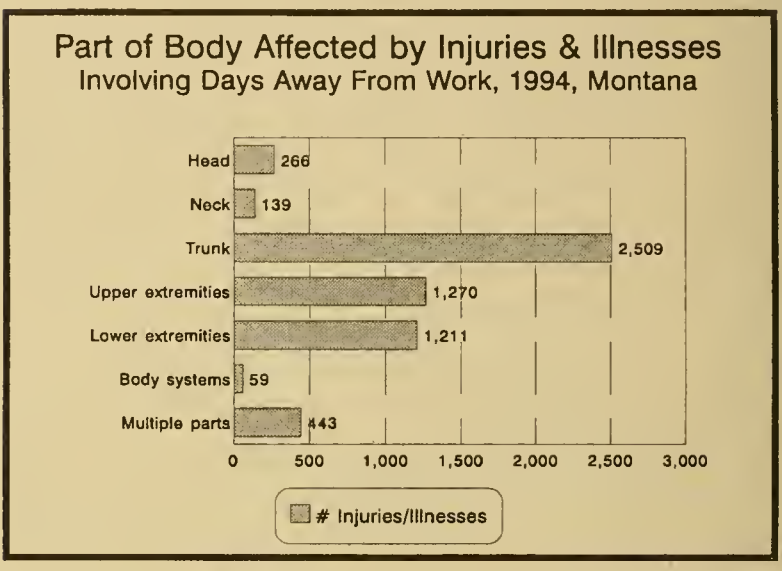
- The highest incidence rates occurred in establishments with 250 to 999 workers, with 10.8 reported injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers.

Characteristics of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

- Serious sprains and strains accounted for 45 percent of the 5,939 work-related injuries and illnesses that required recuperation away from work in 1994. Other notable disabling conditions were fracture, bruises or contusions, and cuts or lacerations—together totalling 24 percent of all reported cases.



- Back injuries were again reported most frequently by Montana employers in 1994, with overexertion being the most common cause of injury. Back injuries accounted for 29 percent of cases reported. Knees, shoulders, and wrists were other major parts of the body affected by illness or injury.



- Occupations reporting the most injuries or illnesses include truck drivers, nursing aides and orderlies, and nonconstruction laborers.

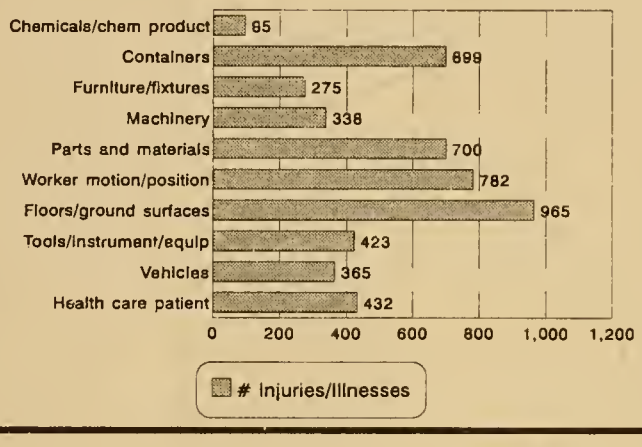
- Injuries and illnesses occurred slightly more than twice as often to men as to women. Most injuries or illnesses occurred to Montana men working in the retail trade, construction, and manufacturing industries. Montana women incurred injuries or illnesses most frequently in the services and retail trade industries.

- Most injured or ill workers had at least one year of service with their employer when their injury or illness occurred.

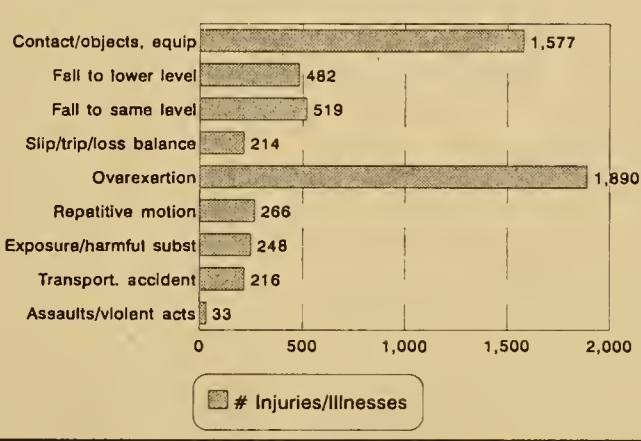
- Overall, Montana workers lost a median six workdays per injury and illness case. Of the 5,939 cases reported, 20.6 percent of the injuries or illnesses were of three to five days duration.

- Carpal tunnel syndrome required a median 27 days away from work for recuperation.

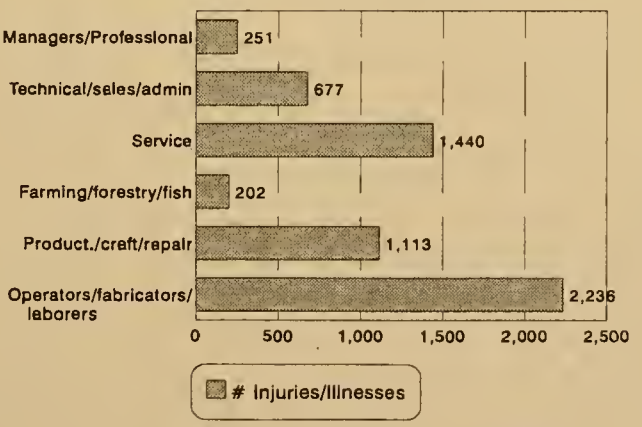
Source of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses
Involving Days Away From Work, 1994, Montana



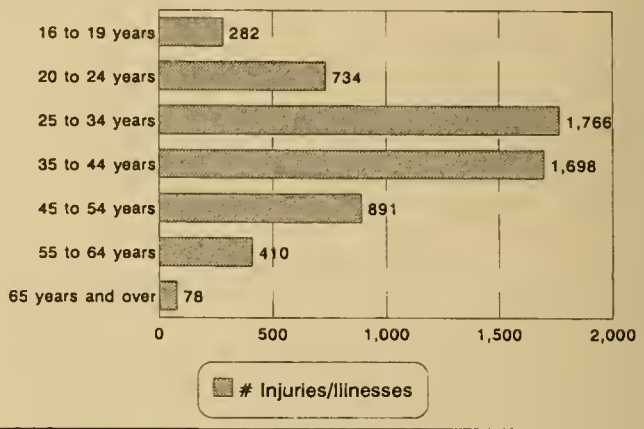
Event or Exposure Causing Injuries & Illnesses
Involving Days Away From Work, 1994, Montana



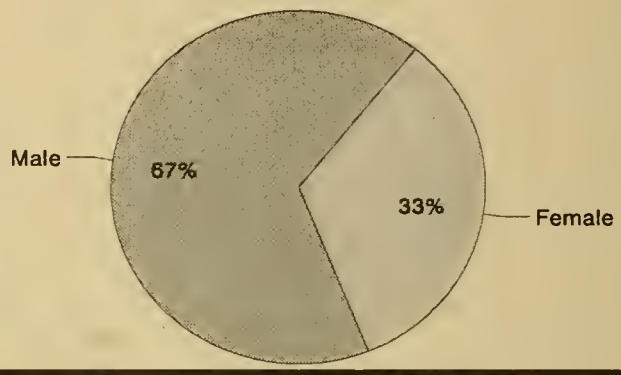
Number of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses
by Occupation, 1994, Montana



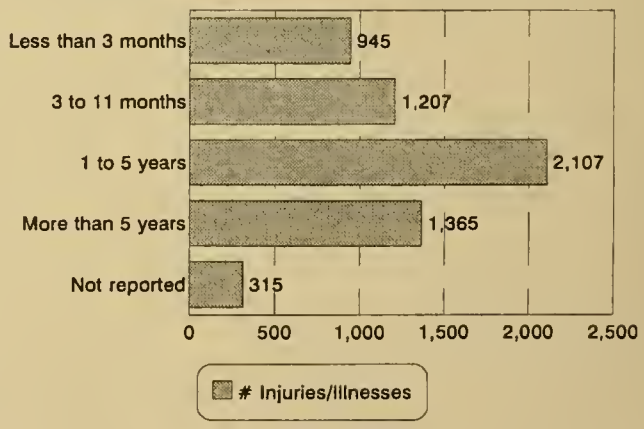
Number of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses by Age, 1994, Montana



Number of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses by Gender, 1994, Montana



Number of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses by Length of Service, 1994, Montana



Facts in this leaflet are excerpted from **Montana Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, 1994**. For more information, write to the Research and Analysis Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry, P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624, or call 1-800-541-3904.